

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for treating a lipophilic fluid contained in an emulsion comprising water and said lipophilic fluid, said process comprising the steps of:
  - a. pretreating said emulsion;
  - b. recovering said lipophilic fluid from said emulsion; and
  - c. purifying said lipophilic fluid.
2. A process according to Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
  - a. exposing a fabric to said lipophilic fluid and said water; and
  - b. collecting said lipophilic fluid and said water in the form of said emulsion.
3. A process according to Claim 2 wherein said process also comprises a mixing step comprising mixing at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid and at least a portion of said water to form said emulsion prior to said exposing.
4. A process according to Claim 3 wherein an emulsifier is also added to said lipophilic fluid and said water to form said emulsion during said mixing.
5. A method according to Claim 2 wherein said collecting comprises spinning said fabrics, said lipophilic fluid, and said water.
6. A method according to Claim 2 wherein said collecting comprises wringing said fabrics.
7. A method according to Claim 2 wherein said collecting comprises evaporating at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid and at least a portion of said water and condensing at least a portion of said lipophilic fluid and at least a portion of said water.



8. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said pretreating is selected from the group comprising sedimentation, centrifugation, cyclonic action exposure, decantation, filtration, temperature modification, chemical addition, and combinations thereof.
9. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said pretreating comprises passing said emulsion through a filter such that particles and particle aggregates about 1 micron or larger are removed.
10. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said recovering is selected from the group comprising mechanical coalescence, electric coalescence, chemical addition, membrane filtration, temperature modification, air stripping, microbial addition, absorbent material exposure, centrifugation, distillation, adsorption, absorption, crystallization, precipitation, temperature modification, diafiltration, electrolysis, extraction, pH modification, ionic strength modification, and combinations thereof.
11. A process according to Claim 10 wherein said adsorption comprises exposing said emulsion to activated carbon.
12. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said purifying is selected from the group comprising membrane filtration, distillation, extraction, stripping, enzyme addition, ion exchange, desiccant drying, adsorption, and combinations thereof.
13. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said emulsion comprises up to about 10% emulsifier by weight of the emulsion.
14. A process according to Claim 13 wherein said emulsion comprises a water/combined lipophilic fluid and condensed lipophilic fluid

vapor/emulsifier ratio of from about 1/98.9/0.1 to about 40/55/5 by weight of said emulsion.

15. A process according to **Claim 13** wherein said emulsifier comprises a surfactant.
16. A process according to **Claim 1** wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a linear siloxane, a cyclic siloxane, or mixtures thereof.
17. A process according to **Claim 1** wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises a lipophilic fluid selected from the group consisting of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane, and mixtures thereof.
18. A process according to **Claim 1** wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises decamethylcyclopentasiloxane.
19. A process according to **Claim 1** wherein said lipophilic fluid comprises decamethylcyclopentasiloxane and is substantially free of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane.
20. A process according to **Claim 1** wherein said emulsion also comprises adjunct ingredients selected from the group consisting of enzymes, bleaches, surfactants, fabric softeners, perfumes, antibacterial agents, antistatic agents, brighteners, dye fixatives, dye abrasion inhibitors, anti-croacking agents, wrinkle reduction agents, wrinkle resistance agents, soil release polymers, sunscreen agents, anti-fade agents, builders, sudsing agents, composition malodor control agents, composition coloring agents, pH buffers, waterproofing agents, soil repellency agents, and mixtures thereof.

21. A process for purifying a lipophilic fluid and a lipophilic fluid vapor, said process comprising the steps of:

- a. collecting said lipophilic fluid vapor and a first emulsion comprising water and said lipophilic fluid;
- b. condensing said lipophilic fluid vapor to form condensed lipophilic fluid vapor;
- c. combining said condensed lipophilic fluid vapor and said first emulsion to form a second emulsion;
- d. pretreating said second emulsion;
- e. recovering said lipophilic fluid and said condensed lipophilic fluid vapor from said second emulsion; and
- f. purifying said lipophilic fluid and said condensed lipophilic fluid vapor.